REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2008, Applicants have amended claims 11-16, 18, 20, and 21 and added claims 25-30. Claims 11-30 are presented for examination. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-15, 18-21, 23 and 24 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,774,644 (Eberlein). As shown above, Applicant has amended independent claim 11 to recite that the reference generator comprises "a second integrator configured to integrate an output voltage from the first integrator, wherein the reference generator is configured to generate the reference threshold based on the integrated output voltage and a supply voltage of the RC oscillator circuit." In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejections is respectfully requested.

Eberlein describes an amplifier (55) connected through a transistor (6) in a simple feedback configuration to generate a reference voltage (Vref) which is connected to the input of a comparator. The Office Action (page 2) apparently equates this circuitry with the reference generator of the claims and equates Eberlein's reference voltage with the reference threshold of the claims. However, Eberlein still does not disclose or suggest a reference generator that comprises "a second integrator configured to integrate an output voltage from [a] first integrator." Nor does Eberlein disclose or suggest a reference generator that is "configured to generate [a] reference threshold based on the integrated output voltage." (Emphasis Added). Nor does Eberlein indicate that such an arrangement would be in any way beneficial. Nor would

a person of ordinary skill in the art have modified Eberlein's circuit in a way to provide such an arrangement

These are not merely a trivial distinctions. As noted in Applicants' specification, for example, providing a second integrator in the reference generator and generating a reference threshold based on an integrated output voltage, may allow for compensation of temperature fluctuations and supply voltage fluctuations as well as production-related fluctuations of the RC oscillator circuit. (See, e.g., Specification at page 4, line 30-page 5, line 4). As a result, dependence of a frequency output of the RC oscillator circuit on temperature and/or supply voltage may be reduced.

Claim 12 covers an RC oscillator circuit that includes a reference generator configured to generate a reference threshold based on both a supply voltage of the RC oscillator circuit, and a voltage at a node connected to a capacitor (i.e., a capacitor of an integrator). Eberlein, however, does not disclose or suggest generating a reference threshold based on a voltage at a node connected to a capacitor. In this regard, the Office Action (page 3) apparently equates Eberlein's Vx at node "A," Fig. 5, with the "voltage at a node [connected to] the capacitor" of claim 12. However, referring to Eberlein's Fig. 5, node "A" is not connected to either of the capacitors C1 or C2, which the Office Action (page 2) apparently equates with the "at least one capacitor" of the claims. Rather, as shown in Eberlein's Fig. 5, node "A" is connected to terminals of the transistors (6, 10 and 11) and resistor (R2) of Eberlein's voltage divider. Thus, Vx does not correspond to a voltage connected to a capacitor as suggested in the Office Action. Nor is this feature otherwise disclosed or suggested elsewhere in Eberlein. Nor does Eberlein indicate that

such an arrangement would be in any way beneficial. Nor would a person of ordinary skill in the art have modified Eberlein's circuit in a way to provide such an arrangement.

This is not merely a trivial distinction. As noted in Applicants' specification, for example, by basing the generation of the reference threshold at least in part on the voltage at the node connected to the capacitor, effects of the ambient temperature and/or effects which fluctuations in the supply voltage have on the charging time of the capacitor in the integrator can be taken into account and compensated for. (See, e.g., Specification at page 4, lines 12-20).

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant's request reconsideration and withdrawal of the of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 as being anticipated by Eberlein.

Each of the dependent claims is believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim, in light of the foregoing amendments, and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please charge any additional fees, not already covered by check, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14603-021US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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